IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)   A database management system having the function of accessing one or more external databases, comprising:

a means for specifying whether functions in a query sent from a user are executed in external databases; and

a means for determining whether data referred to in said~~a~~ query sent from the user can be processed by access ~~is~~ ~~confined~~ to one external database,

wherein, when it is determined that all functions referred to in said ~~a user's~~ query can be processed by access ~~is confined~~ to said one external database and the user specifies execution in said one external database, said query is processed in said one external database, and when it is determined that all functions referred to in said query cannot be processed by access to said one external database, then after ones of said functions contained in said query specified to be executed in said one external database are executed, others of said functions in said query not executable in said one external database are executed in an internal database

after getting an executed result into said internal database

from said one external database.

2. (Currently Amended) A query method in a database

management system having the function of accessing one or more

external databases, the method including the steps of:

(a)   obtaining specification about whether functions in a

query sent from a user are executed in external databases;

(b)   determining whether said functions data referred to

in said query are executable is confined by access to one

external database and are specified by said user to be

executed in said one external database; and

(c)   creating an access procedure for processing said

query in said one external database if it is determined that

said functions referred to in said query are executable by

access to said one external database and are specified by said

user; anddetermining whether a user specifies whether

functions in said query are executed in said external database

(d)   creating an access procedure for processing for

execution of some of the functions in said query which cannot

be processed in said one external database in an internal

database within said database management system if it is

determined that said functions referred to in said query are

not executable by access to said one external database.

3. (Original) The query method in the database

management system according to claim 2, including the steps

of:

if a query is confined to said one database and the user

specifies that all functions in said query are processed in

said one external database, creating an access procedure for

processing said query in said one external database; and

if the user specifies that functions in said query are

not executed in said one external database, creating an access

procedure for executing said functions in a database within

said database management system having the function of

accessing external databases.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The query method in the database

management system according to claim 2 claim 4, including the

4

step of defining whether functions in a query can be executed

in external databases, for each of types of database

management systems managing external databases.

6. (Currently Amended) The query method in the database

management system according to <u>claim 2</u> ~~claim 4~~, wherein the

step of the user defining whether functions in said query are

executed in external databases includes the step of:

defining whether functions in a query can be executed in

external databases, for each of types and versions of database

management systems managing external databases.

7. (Currently Amended) A query execution program in a

database management system having the function of accessing

one or more external databases, the query execution program

executing the procedures for:

obtaining specification about whether functions in a

query<u> sent from a user</u> are executed in external databases;

<u>(b)</u> determining whether<u> said functions</u> ~~data~~ referred to

in said query<u> are executable by access</u> ~~is confined~~ to one

5

external database and are specified by said user to be

executed in said one external database,~~; and~~

(c)   creating an access procedure for processing said

query in said one external database if it is determined that

said functions referred to in said query are executable by

access to one external database and are specified by said user

to be executed in said one external database, and

(d)   creating an access procedure for processing for

execution of some of the functions in said query which cannot

be processed in said one external database in an internal

database within said database management system if it is

determined that said functions referred to in said query are

not executable by access to one external database ~~determining~~

~~whether a user specifies that functions in said query are~~

~~executed in said external database~~.

8. (Original)   The query execution program in the

database management system according to claim 7, the query

execution program executing the procedures for:

if a query is confined to said one database and the user

specifies that all functions in said query are processed in

said one external database, creating an access procedure for

processing said query in said one external database; and

if the user specifies that functions in said query are

not executed in said one external database, creating an access

procedure for executing said functions in a database within

said database management system having the function of

accessing external databases.